	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/900,734	KANDOGAN, ESER
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Michael Roswell	2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *a phone interview with Applicant's representative Daniel E. Johnson on 23 September 2004*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-29,31 and 32*.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on *27 April 2004* are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

        Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.

CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

applicant's representative Daniel E. Johnson on 23 September 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. A method of performing a task in a processor-based system that includes a monitor

and a user input device for controlling information displayed on the monitor, the method

comprising:

displaying on the monitor a plurality of connector pieces representing respective tasks to

be completed, the pieces arranged in a tree reflecting a hierarchy of tasks, wherein each of the

connector pieces has a shape that i) corresponds to a type of task, and that ii) is different from

the shape of connector pieces corresponding to a different type of task;

displaying a plurality of attachment pieces on the monitor, each of the attachment pieces

being configured to interconnect with at least one of the connector pieces, wherein each of the

attachment pieces has a shape that corresponds to a type of task, such that when the shape of

a given connector piece matches the shape of a given attachment piece, then the given

attachment piece corresponds to a way of completing the task represented by the given

connector piece;

using the user input device to position so that one of the attachment pieces and one of

the connector pieces are positioned in close proximity with each other on the monitor, said one

attachment piece and said one connector piece having matching shapes that correspond to a

particular task selected by a user to be completed, said proximity positioning indicating a desire

on the part of a user to complete the particular task; and

inputting into the processor information necessary to perform the particular task, wherein

the user is prompted for said information following said positioning.

15. A processor-implemented method of performing a task, comprising:

displaying a first piece on a monitor connected to a processor, the first piece positioned

within a tree that includes a plurality of pieces, the first piece representing a particular type of

task to be performed, said plurality of pieces in the tree representing respective tasks to be

completed, and wherein each of said plurality of pieces has a shape that i) corresponds to a

type of task, and that ii) is different from the shape of a piece in the tree corresponding to a

different type of task;

displaying a second piece on the monitor, wherein the second piece is configured to

interconnect with the first piece, the first and second pieces having respective preselected

contours that substantially match when interconnected, thereby indicating to a user of the

method that the second piece represents a way of completing the particular task represented by

the first piece;

~~positioning~~ displaying the first and second pieces on the monitor in close proximity to

each other, said ~~positioning~~ proximity displaying indicating a desire on the part of a user to

perform the particular task; and

inputting into the processor information necessary to perform the particular task, wherein

the user is prompted for said information following said positioning.

16. A method of creating a visual representation of a task to be performed, comprising:

displaying on a monitor a first set of pieces arranged in a tree, the pieces corresponding

to tasks to be performed, wherein the pieces are designed to mate with respective counterpart

pieces <u>corresponding to ways of completing those tasks, wherein each of the pieces in the tree</u>

<u>has a shape that i) corresponds to a type of task, and that ii) is different from the shape of a</u>

<u>piece in the tree corresponding to a different type of task</u>;

displaying an additional piece on the monitor <u>selected by a user to be a counterpart</u>

<u>piece</u>; and

creating a piece in the tree, the created piece acting hierarchically as a parent to the

additional piece, wherein the created piece is taken from a database and is inserted in the

displayed tree in the event that there is no piece in the tree that matches the additional piece

and the created piece is required in the tree as a parent to the additional piece, thereby

communicating to the user that additional selections must be made.

25. The method of Claim 15, wherein the first and second pieces have matching colors

prior to said proximity ~~positioning~~ <u>displaying</u>, to aid the user in matching ~~said one of the~~

~~attachment pieces and said one of the connector~~ <u>the first and second</u> pieces.

26. The method of Claim 15, wherein the first and second pieces have matching images

thereon prior to said proximity ~~positioning~~ <u>displaying</u> to aid the user in matching ~~said one of the~~

~~attachment pieces and said one of the connector~~ <u>the first and second</u> pieces.

30. (Cancelled)

31. The method of Claim ~~30~~ 16, each of the counterpart pieces being configured to interconnect with at least one of the pieces in the tree, wherein each of the counterpart pieces has a shape that corresponds to a type of task, such that when the shape of a given piece in the tree matches the shape of a given counterpart piece, then the given counterpart piece corresponds to a way of completing the task represented by the given piece in the tree.

32. The method of Claim 31, comprising displaying a plurality of ~~attachment~~ counterpart pieces having the same shape, thereby providing the user with more than one way to complete the task corresponding to said same shape.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In combination with the claimed subject matter, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest connector and attachment pieces having specific shapes corresponding to specific tasks, and the completion of the tasks the shapes represent upon the connection of a connector piece with an attachment piece. The closest prior art, Keller et al (US Patent 5,767,852), teaches a plurality of connector and attachment pieces of the same shape, suited to set the priority of a process related to a selected attachment piece.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Roswell whose telephone number is (703) 305-5914, and at (571) 272-4055 on or after October 18, 2004. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 6:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703) 308-3116, and at (571) 272-4048 on or after October 18, 2004. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael Roswell
9/29/2004

CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER